Some charitable dole Is wanting to these our often very unhappy brethren to fill the gloomy void that reigns in minds which have nothing on earth to hope or fear; something to relieve, in the killing languor and over-laboured lassitude of those who have nothing to do; something to excite an appetite to existence, in the pallid satiety which attends on all pleasures which may be bought; where nature is not left to her own process, where even desire is anticipated, and therefore fruition defeated by meditated schemes and contrivances of delight, and no interval, no obstacle is interposed between the wish and the accomplishment.' Every one who has read the lives of the poets, and other persons possessed of that fearful gift, the gift of genius, knows that minds finely and tensely strung are fully as liable to be deranged as others, and need, no less than those who are exposed to the temptations of wealth and rank, the application of this soothing medicament.

But in order to discover the real depths of human depravity, and the extent of human helplessness, we must look beyond the mere outward action into the heart. It has been most mercifully enacted, that no man can look directly into the heart of another; but it has been most wisely provided, that every man can look into his own heart, and he is so far entitled to take it as a type or representative of our common nature. But no man can carefully inspect his own nature without being constrained to admit that he needs strength higher than his own to enable him to keep the law of God.

But if there be some one under the impression that he can of himself fulfil the will of God, apart from supernatural aid, we invite him to make the experiment. Let him determine to perform all his duty, and walk for ever in the light of purity, and all by his own strength of resolution. We are ready to admit, that there is much which he may do of himself. He

may perform the ordinary business of life, discharge the courtesies of kind and obliging neighbourhood, and attend to the external forms and observances of religion. He may succeed in doing many a deed of kindness to a neighboured in refraining from acts of open immorality; he may acquire the habit of uttering a cold and formal prayer morning and evening. Some have attained to a character so becoming, that the most jealous and prying eye cannot detect in it a single outside blemish.